Need for encouragement for sugarcane cultivation

†*410. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugarcane farmers, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, are facing losses in their production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make sugarcane cultivation lucrative and to encourage the sugarcane farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) There is increase in sugarcane production in the country since 2003-04 except in 2007-08 and 2008-09, when production declined mainly due to reduction in area particularly in Maharashtra and marginally in Uttar Pradesh. The production of sugarcane during last six years in major sugarcane growing States including Uttar Pradesh is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) under Macro Management of Agriculture is implemented in 22 States/Union Territories namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Pondicherry. The scheme provides assistance for transfer of improved technology to the farmers through field demonstrations; training of farmers and extension workers, supply of planting material, farm implements, moist heat treatment unit, bearing of tube wells/pump sets, micro-nutrients, etc.

Besides, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is providing soft loans to sugar mills from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for cane development in mill areas for production of planting materials, irrigation purposes, incentive to farmers for switching over to improved varieties, ratoon management, tissue culture laboratories etc.

From Kharif 2006-07, farmers are receiving crop loans upto a principal amount of Rs. 3 lakh at 7% rate of interest and the Government of India and State Governments are providing necessary interest subvention to NABARD and Banks for this purpose.

Apart from the above, Central Government has been fixing the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for each sugar season to protect the interest of farmers. The Government has fixed SMP of sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar seasons at Rs. 107.76 per quintal linked to a basic sugar recovery rate of 9.5%, subject to premium of Rs. 1.13 for every 0.1 percentage point increase in recovery above that level. This is significantly higher than the SMP for the previous sugar season which was Rs. 81.18 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 9 percent subject to a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

premium of 0.90 for every 0.1 percent increase in the recovery above that level for the sugar season 2008-09.

These measures are meant for encouraging sugarcane farmers to cultivate sugarcane and increase production, in the coming years.

Statement

Production of sugarcane in major States during 2003-04 *to* 2008-09

Production in lakh tonnes

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*
Andhra Pradesh	150.70	157.39	176.56	216.92	202.96	166.12
Bihar	42.86	41.12	43.38	59.56	38.54	49.80
Gujarat	126.69	145.70	145.80	156.30	151.90	150.40
Haryana	92.80	80.60	81.80	95.80	88.60	56.88
Karnataka	160.15	142.76	182.67	286.70	26.24	235.05
Madhya Pradesh	18.74	21.48	24.25	28.06	31.80	27.05
Maharashtra	256.68	204.75	388.53	785.68	884.37	508.13
Punjab	66.20	51.70	48.60	60.20	66.90	48.80
Uttarakhand	76.51	64.41	61.34	61.00	76.86	55.55
Tamil Nadu	176.56	233.96	351.07	411.24	380.71	332.83
Uttar Pradesh	1127.54	1187.16	1254.70	1339.49	1246.65	1214.08
ALL INDIA:	2338.62	2370.88	2811.72	3555.20	3481.87	2892.34

*3rd Advance Estimate

Corruption among railway officials

*411. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of officials of railways against whom cases/complaints of corruption/ assets more than their income have been registered/filed particularly officials of the Department of Commercial and Traffic during the last three years till date, zone-wise and division-wise;

(b) details of the action taken by the Ministry in cases which are not sub-judice; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?